

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO USDEL SECRETARY NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7739

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 4914

NODIS CHEROKEE

PASS DEPT TO USDEL SECRETARY IN HELSINKI

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO RABIN

REF: SECTO 8064

1. I SAW PRIME MINISTER RABIN IN TEL AVIV THIS EVENING TO DELIVER MESSAGE IN REFTEL, MAKING CLEAR IT WAS AT THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT. I BEGAN BY TELLING RABIN WE HAD LEARNED FROM RELIABLE SOURCES ISRAELIS HAD MADE DEMARCHES IN SEVERAL EUROPEAN CAPITALS CONCERNING CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON INTERIM AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, CITING PARTICULARLY APPROACHES IN LONDON AND ROME. I SAID WE WERE DISTURBED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT AND THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED ME TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS. I THEN SPOKE TO RABIN IN PRECISE ACCORDANCE WITH PARAS (A) THROUGH (D) REFTEL.

2. WHEN I FINISHED MY RECITATION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THERE WERE TWO BASIC QUESTIONS INVOLVED AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE MIXED. THE FIRST WAS THE QUESTION OF A GOI APPROACH TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES; THE SECOND CONCERNED THE INTENTIONS OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT.

3. ON THE FIRST POINT, RABIN SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY APPROACHES TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ASKING THEM TO USE THEIR SECRET

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INFLUENCE ON EGYPT IN FAVOR OF ISRAELI NEGOTIATION POSITIONS.

HE WOULD HAVE TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS AND WOULD LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. RABIN WAS VISIBLY TAKEN ABACK BY MY DEMARCHE AND SEEMED GENUINELY SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC APPROACHES HAD BEEN MADE IN UK AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH HE SHIED AWAY FROM CONCEDED IN RESPONSE TO MY DIRECT QUESTION THAT SUCH APPROACHES CONSTITUTED A VIOLATION OF AGREED NEGOTIATING ARRANGEMENTS, HE SEEMED TO RECOGNIZE THAT THEY WERE AND THAT DEVELOPMENT COULD BE DAMAGING TO THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN SAID HE REJECTED TOTALLY THE SUGGESTION THAT THE GOI'S INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS AN INTERIM AGREEMENT COULD BE SUSPECT IN ANY WAY. STRESSING THAT I HAD BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO JUDGE FOR MYSELF THE INTENSITY OF THE DOMESTIC CRITICISM DIRECTED AT THE GOI NEGOTIATING POSITION IN PAST DAYS, HE TICKED OFF OBSTACLES CREATED BY EGYPT -- THE UNEF MANDATE MANEUVERS, SADAT'S ANNIVERSARY SPEECH, AND EGYPT'S POSITION ON THE EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UN. REGARDLESS OF THIS, HE SAID, THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO PURSUE NEGOTIATION TRACK AS DISCUSSED WITH THE SECRETARY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS SUGGESTIONS.

5. EMPHASIZING THIS POINT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT WHEN THE LATEST ISRAELI MAP HAD BEEN PRESENTED, THE SECRETARY HAD PROPOSED THAT THE ISRAELI FALL-BACK POSITION BE USED STRAIGHT OFF. THE GOI HAD ACCEPTED THIS SUGGESTION. ON ANY BASIS IN FACT, RABIN SAID, "WE HAVE GONE AHEAD. WE CANNOT ACCEPT THAT ISRAEL ISN'T DOING ITS BEST TO FURTHER THE NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH NATURALLY THERE MAY BE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ABOUT THE BEST WAY TO DO THIS."

6. AS I LEFT, RABIN REITERATED HE WOULD PROMPTLY ASCERTAIN FACTS CONCERNING ALLEGED DEMARCHES AND EITHER HE OR ONE OF HIS CO-MEMBERS OF NEGOTIATING TEAM WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME TOMORROW.

7. COMMENT: I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT --WHILE INEPT IN MANY RESPECT AND ANNOYING TO US IN ALMOST ALL-- IS IN SUCH DISARRAY THAT MAJOR DIPLOMATIC MOVES SUCH AS CITED REFTTEL COULD BE LAUNCHED AND CARRIED OUT WITHOUT PRIME MINISTER'S KNOWLEDGE. FACT IS, HOWEVER, THAT RABIN SEEMED GENUINELY

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SURPRISED AND UNLESS HE IS ACTOR OF CONSUMMATE SKILL, IT SEEMS CLEAR HIS SUBORDINATES HAVE EXCEEDED THEIR MANDATE.  
TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEMARCHE, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 07/30/75, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE TALKS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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